

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A container blank comprising:

a bottom-forming wall and two opposite side walls, said walls being joined along boundary lines to form an essentially flat container blank, the container blank having:

an upper portion,

a bottom portion,

a central portion defined by the upper portion and the bottom portion and also by a front boundary line and an intermediate boundary line, said portions being arranged along a longitudinal axis of the container blank, and

a handle portion defined by the intermediate boundary line and a rear boundary line,

wherein the intersections between the front boundary line and ~~respectively the rear boundary line and the upper portion and the bottom portion~~ a first geometrical line coinciding with the transition between the upper portion and the central portion, the front boundary line and a second geometrical line coinciding with the transition between the bottom portion and the central portion, the rear boundary line and said first geometrical line, and the rear boundary line and said second geometrical line constitute corners of a parallelogram comprising an angle of inclination ~~relative to the longitudinal axis of the container blank, in which parallelogram the front boundary line forms an~~ defined by a lateral side of said parallelogram and the longitudinal axis, said angle which is being acute towards the bottom portion,

the front boundary line and the intermediate boundary line along the longitudinal axis of the container blank give the central portion an essentially symmetrical, frustoconical shape,

the front boundary line has a concave curvature relative to the central portion, the concave curvature of the front boundary line has an end point at the intersection between the front boundary line and said second geometrical line, and

the intermediate boundary line has a concave curvature relative to the central portion, the concave curvature of the intermediate boundary line has an end point at the intersection between the intermediate boundary line and said second geometrical line.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 1, in which the front boundary line has a complementary curvature to the rear boundary line.

4. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 1, in which the handle portion comprises a handle-forming duct means intended for gas filling.

5. (Previously Presented) A container blank as claimed in claim 1, in which the bottom portion and the central portion together, in a container made of the container blank, define a volume corresponding to at least 80% of the volume intended for the container.

6. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 1, comprising a duct means intended for filling, said duct means having an extent towards the interior of the container blank.

7. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 6, in which the duct means intended for filling tapers towards the interior of the container blank.

8. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 1, comprising a spout-like duct means.

9. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 8, in which the spout-like duct means has an end portion with a tear initiation.

10. (Previously Presented) The container blank as claimed in claim 9, in which the end portion is wholly or partially delimited from the rest of the spout-like duct means by a zone weakened by thinning of material, the end portion being manually separable, by the weakened zone, from the rest of the spout-like duct means.

11. (Previously Presented) A container produced by filling of a container blank as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 3-10.